Frequently Asked Questions

Can the *Project ALERT* online courses run on Windows 3.1?
As you may know, Microsoft is no longer supporting the Windows 3.x operating system so the content provider and Learning Management System does not provide support for this platform. This change allows the content provider to develop new course features faster without adapting them for the 16-bit Windows 3.x platform. Students are now required to have a 32-bit windows operating system such as Windows 95/98, Windows NT 4.0 or Windows 2000.

What are the system requirements to run a course?
Minimum computing environment to run a course are as follows:

Windows-based	M
Windows 95 or higher	OS 8.1 or higher
Browser – Netscape 4.61 or Internet Explorer 5.0	Browser – Netscape 4.61 or
32 mg RAM	32 mg RAM
Color monitor	Color monitor
4x or faster CD-ROM drive	4x or faster CD-ROM drive
Keyboard and mouse	Keyboard and mouse
Direct network connection or 56bps modem with Internet access	Direct network connection or
Sound card and speakers	Sound card and speakers
Hard disk with at least 25mg available	Hard disk with at least 25 mg
3.5" floppy disk drive	3.5" floppy disk drive
Internet provider capable of running Netscape 4.61 or Internet Explorer 5.0	Internet provider capable of r 5.0
Microphone – course dependent	Microphone – course depenc
Printer – course dependent	Printer – course dependent

Can I access courses from AOL?
No, not directly through AOL. You will first need to launch AOL, and minimize it. Then open Netscape or Internet Explorer and access the Student Log-in through either one of these browsers.

Can courses run on Web TV?
No, courses do not run normally on web-TV.

What are the software and plug-in requirements to run a course?
When you first enter a course, you will see a Plug-in Detector. When you run this detector, your system will be analyzed to see if it is ready. You may be directed to install a plug-in. You may need your local administrator to assist you with this process. A plug-in is a software programs that extend the functions of your Internet browser. Each plug-in has a specific function such as playing a sound, viewing a video clip or displaying animation from within the browser. Plug-in's you will need to have on your computer as well as instructions for downloading and installing the applications are found under "Software" in the "Getting Prepared" section of this manual or click here to go to the section. These plug-in are free and can be downloaded to your computer from the vendor sites directly

 It is recommended to download and install the following *free* Plug-ins.
       Flash   www.macromedia.com

QuickTime www.quicktime.com
Acrobat   www.adobe.com

Where do classes take place?
Online training courses take place wherever your computer is: at home, at work, on the road -- anywhere you can connect to the Internet.

When does my class meet?
Technically, there are no class times. You can log onto the system whenever it is convenient for you, at any time, day or night, to take a course, or just part of a course. Typically, you don't have to be online at a set time of day.

Do I need to buy a textbook?
There are no books to buy, and no classes to attend.

Who will help me if I run into a technical problem?
Email your online instructor for assistance.

Will there be more courses available in the future?
New courses are being added all the time.   Many MOS/AFSC, common core and ancillary courses are also being added.   Contact CMS Teresa Clark (DSN 946-1164 or teresa.clark@nelinc.ang.af.mil) for a complete list and information on how to create an online course.

Will I be graded? How are exams given?
Learners are enrolled as students; they are held to the same academic standards and policies as students taking similar courses at your armory or base. Students are graded. The proponent for each course determines the nature and "grade value" of all assignments and exams. The Proponent will specify grading procedures and policies at the beginning of the course. Learners are expected to abide by the Integrity and Policy on Acceptable Use of Electronic Resources.

How do I see my scores?
Both Skill Assessment scores and Course scores are available through the Student Menu.

Can I bookmark my last page worked so I can return directly to it the next time?
Yes, in two ways:
> The courses automatically use a global bookmark to mark the last page you were working on. This happens automatically when you click the EXIT button in the toolbar. Then the next time you sign on with your UserID and Password and select that course, you will be taken to the marked location where you left off. This global book marking feature works even if your next log in is from another computer.

> You can also bookmark the last page worked on by adding it to your Bookmarks or Favorites on your individual browser. However this type of bookmark would not take you to where you last left off if your next log in is on a different computer, hence a different browser. And you will still need to go to the Learning Center front page first to log-in.

You SHOULD bookmark the student log on page for quick and easy access in the future.

What do I need to do to get full course completion credit?
To get full credit for completing a course, you must satisfactorily complete the final assessment. You get credit for completing a Unit when you answer every question in that Unit. The course is completed when you have answered every question, in every Unit of that course.

What makes these courses high quality?
Our e-Learning courses are based on sound principles, from extensive research in instructional design, adult learning and information processing. All online training courses are designed so that new knowledge and skills will be remembered and retrieved for future use. Each subscription is divided into courses. Courses are divided into units. Each unit consists of:
        A well-defined set of learning objectives.
        A series of interactions that teach the stated objectives.
        A means for evaluating whether the learning objectives have been met.

Can anyone take an online course?
Our online training courses are intended for Military Members and DoD employees with Internet access, anywhere in the world.

Communicating With Faculty and Fellow Students
E-mail
        The main mode of communication between you and your instructors will be through e-mail. E-mail is a fast and effective way to communicate with faculty and fellow students throughout the course. To use e-mail, you must have an Internet Service Provider (ISP). An ISP provides you with access to the Internet as well as an e-mail account. It is your responsibility to explore the features of your ISP's e-mail system, as each system will be different.

Getting Familiar with the Web
Using the Web
The best way to learn how to navigate the Web is by actually using it. Once your Internet Service Provider (ISP) is set up, and you have installed a browser (Netscape Navigator or Internet Explorer), you will be able to go through the tutorials listed below. After completing the tutorials, you will want to practice searching for information by using search engines described in the search engine section. If you are unfamiliar with using the Web, you may want to get a tutor to help you with the basics of using a Web browser (like Netscape Navigator or Internet Explorer) and performing searches using search engines. Or, you can teach yourself utilizing the resources below.

Internet Resources
You can either access the Web sites below by clicking on the links or by typing in the addresses of the sites (given in parentheses) into the address box of your browser.

·Web Teacher (http://www.Webteacher.org/winnet/indextc.html) is a good tutorial on the basics of using the Web enhanced with graphics.

·Learn the Net (http://www.learnthenet.com/english/index.html) This link is another good starting point for learning about the different parts of the Web. The topics (including the ones listed below) are on the left side of the page. Be sure the review them all, but to get a good start using the Web, you'll want to go to the following sites:

  Internet Basics (http://www.learnthenet.com/english/section/intbas.html)
  World Wide Web (http://www.learnthenet.com/english/section/www.html)
  Digging for Data (Search Engines, Advanced Searches
  http://www.learnthenet.com/english/section/digdat.html)
  Bare Bones 101: A Basic Tutorial on Searching the Web
  (http://www.sc.edu/beaufort/library/bones.html) one of the best tutorials on
  searching the web..
  Introduction to Netscape Navigator Browser
  (http://wiscinfo.doit.wisc.edu/cbt/ww4w30/netscape/netscap1.html) This is a good
  Netscape Navigator browser tutorial, and includes exercises.
  ·Internet Basics Course (http://www.netlearning.org/net101/).